

CLAIMS

1. A method of deactivating an allergen from the mite species Der f1 or Der p1, the method comprising dispersing 5 into an airspace an allergen-deactivating amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), the deactivant being provided in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion comprising at least 8% of a deactivant (wt. deactivant/wt. emulsion), and being 10 dispersed into the airspace as a vapour.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over a period of at least 30 minutes.

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3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the dispersal is aided by heat applied to the emulsion.

4. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein 20 the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;
a citrus oil;
a mint oil;
25 bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot;
oil of lemon grass;
30 or a component thereof.

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
the deactivant comprises β -pinene.

5 7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein
the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component
thereof.

8. The use of an oil-in-water emulsion in deactivating an
10 allergen at a locus, the emulsion comprising an allergen
deactivant present in a concentration of 10-15% wt./wt. of
emulsion, a heat source being used to accelerate the
vaporization of the deactivant.

15 9. An allergen-deactivating oil-in-water emulsion
comprising at least 8% of a volatile deactivant (wt.
deactivant/wt. emulsion), wherein the deactivant is
selected from:

20 a mint oil;
bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot;
25 oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.